

(d) No, Sir.

(e) In view of (d) above, the question does not arise.

Assistance from Health Minister's Discretionary Grants

3068. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provide financial assistance to the poor and indigent patients from the Health Minister's discretionary grant, to defray a part of the expenditure on hospitalization;

(b) if so, what are the details of financial assistance provided to individuals during the last three years, till date State-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether the upper ceiling of grant has also been raised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the date of enhancement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of financial assistance provided to individuals during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 (upto 19th March, 01) are given in the Annexure. [See Appendix 192, Annexure No. 20]

(c) and (d) The upper ceiling of grant to be sanctioned in each case has been raised from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- in May, 1993.

Vacant post of Medical Superintendent and Adviser (Ayurveda)

3069. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3649, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd December, 2000 and state:

(a) the dates on which the posts of Medical Superintendent, Ayurveda Hospital, New Delhi and Adviser (Ayurveda) fell vacant;

(b) whether the process of filling up of these posts has been completed;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when, the process is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) One post of Adviser (Ayurveda) was created on 5.6.1995 and was filled on 1.2.2000 in consultation with UPSC.

Two posts were upgraded to the level of Adviser and Medical Superintendent in Supertime Scale in November, 1995. The recruitment rules of these posts were amended and notified on 16th March, 1998. The posts were circulated/advertised in September/October, 1998 after completion of procedural requirements and on the advise of the UPSC the posts were re-advertised in December, 1999. In response 17 applications have been received and the UPSC has been requested to make selection at an early date.

Illegal blood trade

3070. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the flourishing illegal trade of sale of blood by private blood banks in the country because of non-existence of blood banks in private hospitals and nursing homes; and

(b) what measures have been taken by Government to check illegal practice of sale of blood by private blood banks in the country and to provide blood bank facility in recognised private hospitals and nursing homes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No incidence of illegal trade of sale of blood by private blood banks in country has been reported. Most of the large private hospitals have their own blood bank and those hospitals/nursing homes which do not have their own Blood Bank can obtain blood from licensed Blood Banks in their vicinity.

Professional Donation of blood has been banned in the country since 1st January, 1998. For generating enough blood through voluntary blood donation programme, the Government of India have taken a number of steps such as media campaign through, TV, AIR